

Mallory Guillot (Ethics)

From: Jeremy Hidalgo <jeremy@jeremyhidalgo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 6:41 PM
To: Mallory Guillot (Ethics)
Subject: Re: Advisory Opinion Request 2025-188

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Mrs. Guillot,

Thank you for reaching out. Please find my responses to your inquiries below. Let me know if you require any additional clarification or documentation.

1. Sponsorship Details:

Our customer appreciation nights are held monthly and are open to the public. Typically, a sponsor—either an individual or business—will provide food for attendees. This is done either by cooking onsite or by arranging catered meals. In some cases, a sponsor may also underwrite a bar tab. In such instances, the sponsor provides my business (which operates the bar) with a set budget. Once that budget is met, the tab is closed. Any guest present while the tab is open may order drinks within that limit.

When food is sponsored, no payment is made to me or my company; the sponsor simply provides the meal. When drinks are sponsored, the sponsor pays my business directly, as the drinks are served by our establishment. Some past or potential sponsors may have business relationships with the Lafayette Parish School System, but these events are not exclusive or invite-only, nor do they involve any compensation for personal services.

2. Role of My Business:

My business serves as the host venue for these monthly customer appreciation nights. These events are publicly promoted through social media, word of mouth, and in-person conversations with patrons. The purpose is to thank our regular customers, similar in concept to a supper club or appreciation dinner. While we collaborate with sponsors to help provide food or drinks, the event remains fully open to the public—there is no charge for entry and no restriction on attendance.

Please let me know if you need further information.

Jeremy Hidalgo
337.780.1915

On Apr 29, 2025, at 11:14 AM, Mallory Guillot (Ethics) <Mallory.Guillot.Ethics@la.gov> wrote:

Mr. Hidalgo,

I am writing to you about your request for an Advisory Opinion from the Board of Ethics. To properly advise, the Board may need additional information. Can you provide more information about how the sponsorship for the customer appreciation night would work? Do the School Board vendors pay for the sponsorship? If so, are they paying you and/or your company? What role do you and/or your company play in the customer appreciation night? Who are the attendees of this night? Who are you providing free meals to? It would help to give a concrete example of how this will work.

Thank you,

Mallory A. Guillot
Louisiana Board of Ethics, *Staff Attorney*
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Phone: (225) 219-5606 | Fax: (225) 381-7271
Email: Mallory.Guillot.Ethics@la.gov

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